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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078861

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 2067 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
KINSHASA DTD 07 APR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2067

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US, OAU
SUBJ: OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL REQUESTS US HELP

1. OAU ASST SECGEN KAMANDA WA KAMANDA CALLED ON CHARGE APRIL 5 AT KAMANDA'S REQUEST TO MAKE WHAT HE CAREFULLY CALLED "PERSONAL DEMARCHE", ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS THAT USG SHOULD "DO MORE" IN PRESENT ZAIRIAN SITUATION. KAMANDA HAD RETURNED FROM ZAIRE FEW DAYS AGO AND WAS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEM THERE. INVASION OF SHABA RISKED COMPOUNDING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRE AND HE FEARED THAT AS RESULT, UNLESS SHABA INVASION WAS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL SOON, ZAIRE MIGHT REVERT TO DAYS OF EARLY 1960'S.

2. HE THEREFORE URGED USG AS FRIEND OF ZAIRE TO TRY TO DO MORE. HE WAS VAGUE ABOUT WHAT HE MEANT BY "MORE," BUT HE
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APPARENTLY MEANT MATERIAL AID (UNSPECIFIED) AND COUNSEL, THE LATTER TO ENABLE GOZ OVERCOME WHAT HE ADMITTED WERE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH OF NEED FOR ZAIRE TO IMPROVE WELL-BEING OF ITS CITIZENS AS BEING NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF COUNTRY, BUT MAINTAINED PEACE WAS NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD. INSTEAD, INVASION OF KATANGAN GENDARMES HAD ALREADY LED TO ANNOUNCEMENTS BY

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GROUPS ABROAD OF FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL PARTIES. INDEED WHILE HE WAS IN KINSHASA, STAYING AT OAU VILLAGE, HE HAD SEEN LEAFLETS SUPPORTING KATANGANS AND REFERRING FAVORABLY TO GIZENGA AND KAMITATU.

3. KAMANDA WASAWARE OF US AND OTHER WESTERN ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED. WHEN CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT HE DOUBTED USG WOULD WISH OFFER UNSOLICITED ADVICE TO MOBUTU, HE ACKNOWLEDGED PROBLEM, BUT THOUGHT THAT US, WHICH NOW "UNDERSTOOD AFRICA," COULD FIND WAYS TO DO IT DISCREETLY. ASKED IF HE THOUGHT OAU COULD BE HELPFUL IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE MENTIONED SECGEN ETEKI'S VISIT TO ZAIRE AND ANGOLA WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN URGED BY SEVERAL AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, AND WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ESSENTIALLY A FACT-FINDING MISSION DURING WHICH ETEKI WOULD TAKE NO SIDES. ETEKI WOULD THEN PRESUMABLY PREPARE A REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION OF AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE. BEYOND THAT, WHILE HE MAINTAINED MOST AFRICAN STATES SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST AND BY EXTENSION UNITY AND STABILITY OF ZAIRE, HE DID NOT SEEM TO THINK THAT OAU COULD DO MUCH.

4. CHARGE TOLD KAMANDA HE WOULD REPORT HIS CONCERN TO DEPT, BUT REMINDED HIM OF USG'S OFT-STATED POLICY OF AVOIDING BIG POWER CONFLICT IN AFRICA AND OF SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF AFRICANS SOLVING AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THIS ELICITED ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR POLICIES BUT THEN LED TO COMMENT THAT IT WAS FINE TO AVOID BIG POWER CONFRONTATION
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SO LONG AS EVERYONE PRACTICED SAME POLICY AND THAT WHILE AFRICANS SHOULD SOLVE OWN PROBLEMS, IT WAS NOT EASY WHEN POWERFUL EXTERNAL INFLUENCES WERE INVOLVED. HE THEN MADE CLEAR HIS CONVICTION THAT SOVIETS WERE SUPPORTING KATANGANS, COMMENTED THAT AS WE CERTAINLY KNEW, VERY FEW AFRICANS WERE OR WOULD BECOME COMMUNISTS, AND SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT US SHOULD NOT YIELD THE FIELD (HE INSISTED OAU AND US POSITIONS ON ANGOLA IN WHICH BOTH WANTED RECONCILIATION OF ALL PARTIES TURNED OUT TO BE SAME AND SEEMED TO THINK THAT US, UNFETTERED BY AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, COULD NOW ACT MORE FORCIBLY IN DEFENSE OF ITS "INTERESTS" IN AFRICA) LEST AFRICANS DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT US INTENTIONS THAT MAY IN FACT NOT BE CORRECT.

5. KAMANDA CLOSED BY REITERATING HIS PLEA FOR MORE UNDEFINED US SUPPORT TO ENABLE ZAIRE GET THROUGH PRESENT PROBLEM AND TURN ITS ATTENTION TO PRESSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, STRESSED PERSONAL NATURE OF HIS DEMARCHE AND ASSURED CHARGE THAT MOBUTU HAD IN

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NOW WAY PUT HIM UP TO IT.

6. CONVERSATION TENDED BE RAMBLING AND RATHER VAGUE. KAMANDA GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION OF BEING MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT FATE OF HIS COUNTRY AND BESPOKE FEELINGLY OF HIS FEAR THT IT WOULD REVERT TO STATUS OF EARLY SIXTIES ALTHOUGH HE INSISTED THERE NO AREA OUTSIDE OF SHABA THAT WAS INTERESTED IN SECESSION. HIS CHIEF CONCERN SEEMED TO BE THAT THE LONGER THE KATANGAN INVASION LASTED, THE GREATER WAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR VARIOUS OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRETO GET TOGETHER AND CAUSE TROUBLE. KAMANDA SEEMED BE CONTENT IN KNOWLEDGE I WOULD PASS HIS THOUGHTS ON TO DEPT, BUT IF DEPT HAS ANYTHING IT WISHES ME TO SAY IN RETURN, HE WOULD NO DOUBT APPRECIATE IT.

7. FOR KINSHASA: SINCE KAMANDA WENT OUT OF HIS WAY
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TO ASSURE CHARGE THAT MOBUTU DID NOT KNOW OF HIS INTENTION TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH CHARGE, WE CONCLUDE IT PROBABLY BETTER IF HIS "DEMARCHE" WAS NOT MENTIONED TO GOZ.
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